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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Industrial Development Board

Ninth session
Vienna, 18-22 May 1992
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Opening of the ninth session

The ninth session of the Board will be opened by the President of the eighth session, Mr. A. Tofigh (Islamic Republic of Iran).

Item 2. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 23.1 of the rules of procedure, each year, at the commencement of its first regular session, the Board shall elect from among the representatives of its members a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. Rule 23.3 also stipulates that the offices of the President, the three Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur shall be subject to equitable geographical rotation within a five-year cycle described in appendix A to the rules of procedure. Accordingly, for the ninth session, the President should be elected from members of the Board in list D of Annex I to the Constitution, and the three Vice-Presidents should be elected from members of the Board from list C, from the African States in list A and from list B respectively. The office of the Rapporteur should be occupied by a representative of a member elected among the Asian States plus Yugoslavia in list A.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda for the ninth session

A provisional agenda for the ninth session was adopted by the Board at its fourth special session (IDB/S.4/Dec.1). In accordance with rule 12, two supplementary items are being proposed, namely items 16 and 17 (see IDB.9/1). Supporting statements for the inclusion of the two supplementary items are provided in the present document under the respective items. The provisional agenda with the proposed supplementary items is submitted to the Board for adoption in document IDB.9/1.

Item 4. UNIDO policies, including energy

UNIDO policies are described in chapter I of the Annual Report of UNIDO, 1991 (see item 5 below).

The Board at its eighth session, having considered a proposed energy programme (IDB.8/9), requested the Director-General to submit for approval to the Board at its ninth session, upon consultation with Member States, a new energy programme formulated within the mandate of UNIDO and taking into account the needs of developing countries as expressed in paragraph (d) of decision IDB.8/Dec.12.

The Board will have before it:

- UNIDO policies (IDB.9/10, chap. I)

- UNIDO energy programme. Revised proposal by the Director-General (IDB.9/9)

Item 5. Annual report of the Director-General for 1991 on the activities of the Organization

In accordance with Article 11.6 of the Constitution, the Director-General is to prepare an annual report on the activities of the Organization. In its resolution GC.4/Res.2, the General Conference at its fourth session requested the Director-General to fully incorporate in future annual reports the programme performance report according to Board decision IDB.7/Dec.11, and to continue including therein the tabular presentation of significant performance indicators and the comparison of outputs implemented against outputs planned for the period covered by the annual report, as shown in document GC.4/35.

Both the Board in its decision IDB.8/Dec.7 and the General Conference in its decision GC.4/Dec.12 have addressed a number of requests to the Director-General related to the implementation of the Special Programme for the Industrial Development of Asia and the Pacific, including the submission of a progress report on the subject to the Board at its ninth session. The General Conference also requested the Director-General to report to the Board at its ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of its resolution GC.4/Res.7 concerning technical assistance to the Palestinian people. While both the Special Programme for Asia and the Pacific and technical assistance to the Palestinian people will be the subject of specific agenda items at the eleventh session of the Board, in order to comply with the requests of the General Conference, the Director-General will submit brief progress reports on those two subjects to the current session of the Board.

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The Board will have before it:

- Annual Report of UNIDO, 1991 (IDB.9/10)
- Annual Report of UNIDO, 1991. Addendum: Technical assistance to the Palestinian people (IDB.9/10/Add.1)
- Annual Report of UNIDO, 1991. Addendum: Special Programme for the Industrial Development of Asia and the Pacific (IDB.9/10/Add.2)
- List of resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme of relevance to UNIDO (conference room paper)

Article 9.4 (d) of the Constitution stipulates that the Board shall request Members to furnish information on their activities related to the work of the Organization. In decision IDB.1/Dec.29, Member States were requested to inform the Board on their activities related to the work of the Organization when reviewing the annual report on the activities of the Organization. Member States may wish to include this information in the oral statements delivered by their representatives under this item. Such statements would be reflected in the summary records of the Board.

Item 6. UNIDO technical cooperation activities in 1991

By decision IDB.7/Dec.11, the Board at its seventh session requested the Director-General to present an annual report on technical cooperation activities of UNIDO, containing a clear delineation of the budgetary phases of the execution of the technical cooperation projects within a clear and detailed execution frame. At its fourth session, the General Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.3 requested the Director-General (a) to present a report on the possible measures and actions that can be undertaken by UNIDO to assist developing countries in strengthening their capabilities for national execution of technical cooperation projects; (b) to expand his report on the ratio of expert component costs to other component costs contained in chapter III of document IDB.8/16 presenting measures to ensure that the quantitative and qualitative relationship between different components is in line with the specific needs of developing countries; and (c) to present to the Board a clear and precise definition of the concept of technical cooperation in terms of UNIDO operational activites.

The Conference, in its decision GC.4/Dec.11, also requested the Director-General to ensure that in future programming and appraisal activities greater consideration be given to the relevance, cost effectiveness and sustainability of UNIDO projects as defined in the annex to document GC.4/28 and that appraisal advice should be sought from the project concept stage onwards to the extent possible.

The Director-General was also requested to submit a report on the implementation of those measures to the General Conference at its fifth session, through the Board at its ninth session.

The Board will have before it the following documents:

- Annual Report of UNIDO, 1991 (IDB.9/10)
- UNIDO technical cooperation activities in 1991. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/3)
- List of technical cooperation projects approved and/or operational in 1991 (conference room paper)

Item 7. Economic cooperation among developing countries

The Board at its eighth session, in decision IDB.8/Dec.5, requested the Director-General to take a number of actions aimed at strengthening economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC/TCDC) and submit a report to the Board at its ninth session together with a report on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

The Board will have before it the following document:

- Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/11)

Item 8. System of Consultations

The "Principles, objectives and characteristics" of The System of Consultations (PI/84) stipulate (a) that the Board shall consider the reports of the Consultation meetings and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, as well as decide and provide guidance on appropriate follow-up action; and (b) that the Board shall decide every two years on the programme of Consultations for the following biennium (ibid., paras. 8 and 20).

Concerning the follow-up of Consultations, the General Conference in its resolution GC.3/Res.2 requested the Director-General to present to the Board the conclusions and recommendations of each Consultation for their examination and approval as well as guidance, as appropriate, on a plan for the technical cooperation follow-up activities carried out by UNIDO.

The Board in its decision IDB.6/Dec.5 decided to postpone consideration of possible topics for the 1994-1995 Consultations until the ninth session of the Board while asking the Director-General to consult regional groups as to their priorities regarding the choice of subjects for Consultations in their respective regions.

At its eighth session, in decision IDB.8/Dec.33, the Board, recalling General Conference resolution GC.3/Res.2 on the evaluation of the System of Consultations, particularly paragraphs (5), (6), (7) and (9), requested the Director-General to improve the actions called for in that resolution and to report on the progress made in the implementation of those actions to the Board at its ninth session. It also requested the Director-General to examine the possibility of combining single Consultations with investment promotion meetings and of increasing participation of industrial partners in Consultations, and to report on both issues to the Board at its ninth session.

Furthermore, in its resolution GC.4/Res.16 on the evaluation activities of UNIDO, the General Conference requested the Director-General: to ensure the full implementation of in-depth evaluation recommendations within two years of the completion of an evaluation, and to report on the actions taken thereon; to present, in the framework of in-depth evaluations, UNIDO's action to ensure that its activities have an effective impact on the industrial development of developing countries; and to assess the implementation and impact of the recommendations of the evaluation on the System of Consultations and report on those assessments to the Conference at its fifth session through the Board at its ninth session.

The Board will have before it:

- Annual Report of UNIDO, 1991 (IDB.9/10, chap. III, paras. 1-13)
- Report on the Fourth Consultation on the Capital Goods Industry with Emphasis on Machine Tools (ID/378)
- Report on the Second Consultation on the Building Materials Industry (ID/380)
- Report on the Regional Consultation on the Fisheries Industry for Asia and the Pacific Island Countries (ID/379)
- Consultations held in 1991 and plan for technical cooperation follow-up activities. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/2)
- Measures to enhance the System of Consultations. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/14)
- Programme of Consultations for the biennium 1994-1995. Proposals by the Director-General (IDB.9/15)

Item 9. Development and transfer of technology

At its eighth session, the Board in its decision IDB.8/Dec.10 requested the Director-General to continue to implement and enhance the programme contained in document IDB.3/26, to take a number of additional actions and to report to the Board at its ninth session on progress made in that respect.

The Board will have before it:

- Development and transfer of technology. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/6)

Item 10. Industrial investment promotion

At its eighth session, the Board in its decision IDB.8/Dec.13 addressed a number of requests to the Director-General including the submission of a report on their implementation to the Board at its ninth session. Included in those requests were: the study referred to in Conference resolution GC.3/Res.19 (and subsequently reiterated in resolution GC.4/Res.17, para. 3(i)) on the possibilities and different modalities for fostering regional investment promotion activities; and the response and follow-up to the in-depth evaluation of the industrial investment promotion activities of UNIDO (also reiterated by the Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.17, para. 3 (g)).

The Board will have before it:

- Industrial investment promotion. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/7)

Item 11. UNIDO Country Director programme

At its eighth session, in its decision IDB.8/Dec.14, the Board, having considered that the successor arrangements for sectoral support might affect the financing of UCDs from the UNIDO operational budget, requested the Director-General to pursue his consultations with the Administrator of UNDP on the system of sharing financing of the UCD programme, so that the target of 50 posts could be reached in the near future, and to keep Member States informed of the progress of the implementation of the programme.

Subsequently, at its fourth session, the General Conference in resolution GC.4/Res.4 requested the Director-General: (a) to prepare a study on the modalities of setting up a close working relationship among the UCDs of the same subregion in order to strengthen the role of the UCDs; (b) to increase the number of UCDs in order to reach the target set in Board decision IDB.8/Dec.14; (c) to report on the possibilities of strengthening the country focus, while strengthening the advisory role of UCDs in project planning, development and evaluation; and (d) to report to the Board at its ninth session on the implementation of Board decision IDB.8/Dec.14 and the conference resolution.

The Board will have before it:

- UNIDO Country Director programme. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/8)

Item 12. Financial situation of UNIDO

The Director-General will provide the Board with the latest report on the financial situation of UNIDO. In compliance with General Conference resolution GC.4/Res.27, paragraph 7, the report will include information on the actual status of vacancies of Professional posts in each programme as well as on contingency measures which could be necessary in case of income shortfalls such as reduction of programme implementation or staff reductions.

The Board will have before it:

- Financial situation of UNIDO. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/16)

Item 13. Conduct of business and rationalization of proceedings

The Board at its fifth session in 1989, endorsed a number of recommendations submitted by a working group for the conduct of business and rationalization of proceedings of the Board, and established them with immediate effect while deciding that it would look at the matter again in 1993 (decision IDB.5/Dec.46).

At its eighth session, in 1991, the Board noted with concern that since those recommendations

were established, during the biennium 1990-1991: (a) the number of items on the agendas of the Board had been drastically increasing, thus allowing little time for a substantial discussion of many important agenda items; (b) repetition of items in the agendas during the biennium had been impossible to avoid; and (c) the amount of pre-session documentation had significantly increased as a consequence of overloaded agendas, thus rendering a proper preparation virtually impossible. The Board decided to discuss that issue more in depth, in view of the possibility of amending some of the recommendations at its ninth session (decision IDB.8/Dec.43).

Furthermore, the General Conference in its resolution GC.4/Res.26 made recommendations for streamlining the work of the policy-making organs and recommended that the Board examine ways and means of achieving the implementation of those recommendations in its work.

The Board will have before it:

- Streamlining of the work of the policy-making organs. Note by the Secretariat (IDB.9/13)

Item 14. Electronic data-processing programme

The General Conference at its fourth session requested the Director-General, with a view to ensuring the transparency of all operations concerning the electronic data-processing (EDP) programme and avoiding a repetition of past difficulties, to report to the subsequent sessions of the policy-making organs on the programme and cost of implementing the consultants' recommendations and the recommendations of the External Auditor, as contained in documents GC.4/CRP.1 and GC.4/50, especially those concerning the disaster recovery plan, the organizational and functional changes and the internal control and evaluation of automation projects. It also requested the Director-General to keep Member States fully apprised of the EDP programme by quarterly briefings and informal notes (GC.4/Dec.18, para. (h)).

The Board will have before it:

- Electronic data-processing programme. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/12)

Item 15. Venue of the fifth session of the General Conference

At its fourth session, in resolution GC.4/Res.30, the General Conference took note with appreciation of the kind offer of the Republic of Cameroon to UNIDO to host the fifth session of the General Conference in Yaoundé in 1993, and requested the Director-General to undertake the necessary consultations with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for detailed arrangements for holding the fifth session of the General Conference in Yaoundé and to submit a report on the result of those consultations to the Board at its tenth session for decision.

Subsequently, the Board at its fourth special session decided to include this item on the agenda of its ninth session.

The Board will have before it:

- Venue of the fifth session of the General Conference. Report by the Director-General (IDB.9/4)

Item 16. Structure of world industrialization from the long-term perspective

The General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-fifth session adopted resolution 45/196 on industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries in which it inter alia recommended that UNIDO, in close cooperation with the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, make recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, with a view to strengthening effectively industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

UNIDO's proposals on the subject (IDB.8/32) were submitted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly in document A/46/455. The General Assembly in its resolution 46/146 took note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, noted with interest the UNIDO proposal for a study on the structure of world industrialization from the long-term perspective as a contribution to the overall assessment of and needs for industrial development in developing countries, and recommended that the Board should consider the proposal at its next session and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

To enable the Board to comply with the recommendation of the General Assembly, the Director-General is proposing the inclusion of this supplementary item on the provisional agenda of the current session.

The Board will have before it:

- Industrial development, retrospect and prospect: trends, choices and opportunities. A study proposed by the Director-General (IDB.9/5)

Item 17. Appointment of Deputy Directors-General

Three posts of deputy director-general will become vacant in the near future: the post of the Department for Programme and Project Development on 31 March 1992, and the posts of the Department of Industrial Operations and of the Department for Industrial Promotion, Consultations and Technology on 31 May 1992.

In compliance with Article 11.5 of the Constitution and Board decision IDB.1/Dec.11 and annex, the Director-General will submit his recommendations to the Board for approval.

In order to enable the Board to consider the matter, the Director-General, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Board, is

proposing the inclusion of this supplementary item in the provisional agenda of the ninth session of the Board.

The Board will have before it a note on the subject (IDB.9/17).

Item 18. Provisional agenda and date of the tenth session

In accordance with rule 10.2 of the rules of procedure, the Director-General shall submit to the Board at each regular session the provisional agenda for the following regular session.

Following the recommendations of the Board for conduct of business and rationalization of proceedings (IDB.5/Dec.46, annex, para. 4), the Board at its fourth special session established a list of items for consideration when adopting the provisional agenda of its tenth session (see decision IDB/S.4/Dec.2, section A).

The Board also decided to hold its tenth session from 2 to 6 November 1992 (IDB/S.4/Dec.2, section B).

The Board will have before it:

- Board decision IDB/S.4/Dec.2 (GC.5/1, annex I)

Item 19. Adoption of the report of the ninth session

Item 20. Closure of the ninth session